

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 07550 231742Z

63

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 /050 W
----- 037633

R 231635Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9539

UNCLAS CARACAS 7550

DEPT. PASS TO: R. BOURDON, MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, VE

SUBJECT: PORT CONGESTION

REF CARACAS 4356, 6136

1. LOCAL PRESS JULY 16/17 REPORTS THAT ON JULY 15 PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC DISPATCHED FIVE CABINET MINISTERS TO TOUR LA GUAIRA FOR PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDING IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE GRAVE CONGESTION AT THAT PORT AS WELL AS AT PUERTO CABELLO, THE NATION'S TWO PRINCIPAL PORTS. INCLUDED IN THE ON-THE-SPOT INVESTIGATION WERE MINISTERS OF TREASURY, COMMUNICATIONS, DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC WORKS AND DEFENSE AS WELL AS THE D DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PORTS, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF CUSTOMS AND OTHER GOVT OFFICIALS.

2. AMONG REMEDIES SUGGESTED BY THE GROUP ON COMPLETION OF THE TOUR WERE PREPARATION OF ADDITIONAL STORAGE SPACE FOR INCOMING CARGOES; ACQUISITION AND REPAIR OF NEEDED EQUIPMENT; REVISION OF BULK GRAIN AND FERTILIZER PROGRAMS TO ALLOW FOR MORE EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF THESE IMPORTS; USE OF MILITARY VEHICLES TO REMOVE MERCHANDISE FROM PORT AREAS; PROHIBITION OF BULK GRAIN VESSEL DIVERSIONS FROM A PORT HAVING ADEQUATE SILOS AND DISCHARGING FACILITIES
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CARACA 07550 231742Z

TO A PORT WITH LESS THAN ADEQUATE FACILITIES; RAPID WITHDRAWAL

OF CARGOES BY CONSIGNEES AND RECEIVERS, AND AUCTIONING OFF WITHOUT DELAY OF ABANDONED MERCHANDISE. PLANS ARE ALREADY IN EFFECT TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF JAN 1, 1976, OF NEW BERTHING AND WAREHOUSING FACILITIES AT LA GUAIRA AND PUERTO CABELLO.

3. AGENT FOR U.S. FLAG AND FOREIGN LINES HERE REPORTED THAT ON JULY 15 THERE WERE 17 VESSELS AWAITING BERTH WITH AVERAGE WAITING TIME OF SEVEN DAYS, WHEREAS ON JULY 17 THERE WERE ONLY FOUR VESSELS AWAITING BERTHS WITH AVERAGE WAITING TIME OF THREE DAYS. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS INVESTIGATION OF LA GUAIRA BY HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS COULD PROVE TO BE THE CATALYST LEADING TO IMPROVED CONDITIONS AT VENEZUELAN PORTS ALTHOUGH HE PREDICTED THAT FINAL SOLUTION WILL TAKE AT LEAST FIVE YEARS. AGENT SAID THAT THREAT" OF USING MILITARY VEHICLES, AMONG OTHER MEASURES, TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE CONGESTION AT LA GUIRA HAS HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE SITUATION

, PARTICULARLY INSOFAR AS THE UNION AND ITS TRUCKERS ARE CONCERNED WHICH, HE ALLEGED, HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN DELIBERATE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED SLOWDOWNS. COMMENT: WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE TRADITIONAL YEAR END CRUSH OF IMPORTS USUALLY OCCURRING ABOUT THE FIRST OF OCT DUE TO THE SEASONALLY HIGH LEVEL OF CONSUMER IMPORTS FOR THE DEC HOLIDAYS, IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL NON-WORKING DAYS AND THE ABNORMALLY HIGH DEGREE OF ABSENTEEISM DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE YEAR, THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE EMERGENCY MEASURES CONTEMPLATED BY THE GOVT MUST BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY AND ADHERED TO ON A CONTINUAL BASIS TO PREVENT FURTHER SERIOUS DETERIORATION OF THE PORTS SITUATION.

SHLAUDEMAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, PORT CONGESTION, PORT FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA07550
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750254-1154
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750726/aaaaaxqp.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CARACAS 4356, 75 CARACAS 6136
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JAN 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORT CONGESTION
TAGS: EWWT, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006